

**CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

**I. (a) PLAINTIFFS**

Dr. Carol Allen.

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Union County  
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

Reginald Allen, Esq., 7601 Crittenden Street, f-12,  
Philadelphia, PA 19118**DEFENDANTS**

Long Island University

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Roslyn Harbor NY  
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF  
THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

**II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 U.S. Government Defendant | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III) |

**III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES** (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

|   | PTF                                   | DEF                        |   | PTF                        | DEF                                   |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Citizen of This State                   | <input type="checkbox"/> 1            | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State     | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4            |
| Citizen of Another State                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3            | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation  | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6            |

**IV. NATURE OF SUIT** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

| CONTRACT   | TORTS   | FORFEITURE/PENALTY   | BANKRUPTCY   | OTHER STATUTES  |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance   | <b>PERSONAL INJURY</b>  | <b>PERSONAL INJURY</b>   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine  | 310 Airplane  | <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability                           | <input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158                         | <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a))                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act  | 315 Airplane Product Liability  | <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability | <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157                     | <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument                                   |   |  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment       | 320 Assault, Libel & Slander  |  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act  | 330 Federal Employers' Liability  |  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) | 340 Marine  | <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability                    |  | <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits           | 345 Marine Product Liability  |  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits                                     | 350 Motor Vehicle   | <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud   | <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights                                | <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit (15 USC 1681 or 1692)          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract  | 355 Motor Vehicle   | <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending  | <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> 485 Telephone Consumer Protection Act              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability                              | Product Liability   | <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage                                | <input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application | <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise   | 360 Other Personal Injury   | <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage   | <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange               |
|  | Medical Malpractice   | <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice                         | <input type="checkbox"/> 880 Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016          | <input type="checkbox"/> 860 HIA (1395ff)                                   |
| REAL PROPERTY  | CIVIL RIGHTS  | PRISONER PETITIONS   | SOCIAL SECURITY  | <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923)                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation                                       | 440 Other Civil Rights  | Habeas Corpus:   | <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))                        | <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure   | 441 Voting  | <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee  | <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g))                              | <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g))                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment                                  | 442 Employment  | <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence                                    |  | <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land   | 443 Housing/ Accommodations   | <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability                                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment | <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty   |  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other                 | Other:   | <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application                |   |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other  | <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions                 |   |
|  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights  |  |   |
|  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition  |  |   |
|  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement                    |  |   |

**V. ORIGIN** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

|   |   |  |   |  |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 Original Proceeding | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Removed from State Court | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Remanded from Appellate Court | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Reinstated or Reopened | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Transferred from Another District (specify) _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|---|

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):

ADA AND ADAA

Brief description of cause:  
EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION**VI. CAUSE OF ACTION**

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.      DEMAND \$ 200,000.00      CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:  
JURY DEMAND:  Yes  No

**VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:**

(See instructions):

JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCKET NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

DATE

06/21/2022

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

*Reginald Allen*

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT #

AMOUNT

APPLYING IFP

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**DESIGNATION FORM**

*(to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar)*

Address of Plaintiff: 1465 E. 7th Street, Plainfield, NJ 07062

Address of Defendant: 700 Northern Blvd., Roslyn Harbor, NY 11548

Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: \_\_\_\_\_

**RELATED CASE, IF ANY:**

Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Judge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Terminated: \_\_\_\_\_

Civil cases are deemed related when *Yes* is answered to any of the following questions:

|  |                              |  |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?  | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?            | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action of this court? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights case filed by the same individual?  | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case  is /  is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above.

DATE: 06/21/2022

*Reginald Allen*  
Signature  
Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff

77083

Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)

**CIVIL: (Place a ✓ in one category only)****A. Federal Question Cases:**

- 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts
- 2. FELA
- 3. Jones Act-Personal Injury
- 4. Antitrust
- 5. Patent
- 6. Labor-Management Relations
- 7. Civil Rights
- 8. Habeas Corpus
- 9. Securities Act(s) Cases
- 10. Social Security Review Cases
- 11. All other Federal Question Cases  
(Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:**

- 1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts
- 2. Airplane Personal Injury
- 3. Assault, Defamation
- 4. Marine Personal Injury
- 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury
- 6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. Products Liability
- 8. Products Liability – Asbestos
- 9. All other Diversity Cases  
(Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_ Employment Discrimination

**ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION**

*(The effect of this certification is to remove the case from eligibility for arbitration.)*

I, Reginald Allen, Esq., counsel of record or pro se plaintiff, do hereby certify:

- Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, § 3(c) (2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs;
- Relief other than monetary damages is sought.

DATE: 06/21/2022

*Reginald Allen*  
Signature  
Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff

77083

Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)

NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR  
THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

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|                                |   |                     |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| DR. CAROL ALLEN                | : | CIVIL ACTION NO.    |
| 1465 E. 7 <sup>TH</sup> STREET | : |                     |
| PLAINFIELD, NJ 07062           | : | JURY TRIAL DEMANDED |
| PLAINTIFF,                     | : |                     |
|                                | : |                     |
| V.                             | : |                     |
|                                | : |                     |
| LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY         | : |                     |
| 700 NORTHERN BLVD.             | : |                     |
| ROSLYN HARBOR, NY 11548        | : |                     |
| DEFENDANT.                     | : |                     |

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COMPLAINT

JURISDICTION

1. This matter is brought pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act as Amended (ADAA) and Title VII. Jurisdiction is based on 28 U.S.C. S 1331, 28 U.S.C. S 1343, and the aforementioned federal statutes. Jurisdiction is also based on diversity of citizenship pursuant to 28 U.S.C. S 1332 and the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.00 (seventy five thousand dollars) exclusive of interests and costs.

PARTIES

2. Plaintiff Dr. Carol Allen (from hereinafter “plaintiff”) is a resident of the state of New Jersey and she resides at the address indicated in the caption above.
3. Defendant, Long Island University. (from hereinafter, “defendant” or “the University”) is an institution of higher learning, a university, and it has an address as indicated in the caption above. The defendant is an accredited university which employs professors to teach college curriculum.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY REQUIREMENTS

4. Plaintiff filed a charge of discrimination with the United States Equal Opportunity Commission (US EEOC) at charge number 524-2021-00687 for which she received a right sue letter dated March 28, 2022. (See Exhibit A).

#### FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

5. Plaintiff began working for defendant in September 1995 as an Assistant Professor in its English Department; since that time, the plaintiff has become a tenured Full Professor, working in the English, Philosophy and Foreign Languages Department.

6. At all times during her employment for the defendant, the plaintiff performed her duties in an exemplary fashion, and she was highly qualified

for her duties at all times.

7. The plaintiff regularly went well beyond the scope of her duties to benefit the defendant, including taking on projects to attempt to improve its racial and ethnic diversity for many years, although she received push back and resistance on many occasions when she attempted to have diversity initiatives put into effect.
8. The plaintiff is of the African American Race and is Black.
9. The plaintiff is disabled by way of extremely high blood pressure which she has suffered from for years; the plaintiff's high blood pressure (hypertension) substantially impairs her ability to control the force of the blood in her arteries, which results in inordinate pounding against the artery walls.
10. Despite, the plaintiff's disability summarized in paragraph 9 above, she was able to perform the essential functions of her duties for the defendant, with or without accommodation.
11. In August of 2020, the plaintiff requested a reasonable accommodation from the defendant to teach virtually based on her hypertension; this

request was made in the context of a raging worldwide COVID pandemic, for which no attempted preventive vaccines had yet to been developed or distributed.

12. Dr. Allen learned that the University was offering other of her professional peers an accommodation of the type she requested, and she learned that at least four Caucasian employees received the accommodation of being allowed to teach and work remotely, not having to travel to the University - the plaintiff is unaware that those persons who the University allowed to work remotely were or were not disabled.
13. The plaintiff also learned that other African American professors also requested to work remotely, but either they were denied by the defendant, or they were ignored by the defendant.
14. At the time that the plaintiff requested the reasonable accommodation referred to above, the defendant knew that she commuted from her residence in Plainfield NJ to come to its campus in Brooklyn, which included taking a train (New Jersey Transit), as well as the subway in New York.
15. The plaintiff's hypertension is aggravated by stress – plaintiff found that traveling on New Jersey transit and then on the subway to be extremely

stressful, because she became aware from national news stories that COVID outcomes were disproportionately worse for African Americans of her approximate age (57 years old as of August 2020), and also for persons who suffered from high blood pressure, amongst other co-morbidities.

16. In making her request to the defendant for a reasonable accommodation in August 2020, the plaintiff informed it of the nature of her disability.
17. On/around September 4, 2020, the defendant, through its authorized managerial personnel, informed the plaintiff that it did not believe that her medical condition was serious enough to warrant her working remotely (from home), and told the plaintiff that it would provide her with masks and wipes; the defendant informed the plaintiff that it expected her to teach in person for the entire semester.
18. After school began up until October 6, 2020, the plaintiff worked in person, commuting as described above.
19. On October 6, 2020, the plaintiff spoke to the Chair of her department, Leah Dilworth, and told her that she was struggling to come in to teach in person and that the work condition of traveling and teaching in person was

negatively affecting her health – Ms. Dilworth suggested that the plaintiff reach out to the defendant’s “Human Resources” office again, to have it review her request for an accommodation again.

20. The plaintiff followed Ms. Dilworth’s suggestion, and “Human Resources” told the plaintiff that it would get back to her, however, it never did.

21. On November 24, 2020, as a result of extremely high blood pressure, the plaintiff suffered a stroke, requiring that she had to be taken from her home by ambulance to a hospital in New Jersey; the plaintiff was debilitated to the extent that she could not even attempt to reach her family.

22. The plaintiff was admitted to the hospital for several weeks and she informed the defendant of her status in the hospital.

23. Due to COVID, there were travel restrictions between states, and the majority of the plaintiff’s family, who reside in Pennsylvania, could not visit her while she was hospitalized, or after her release to home for a period of time.

24. Even after notice that the plaintiff suffered a stroke, the defendant still ignored and/or denied the plaintiff an accommodation.

25. The plaintiff's requested accommodation was not unreasonable and it did not create an undue hardship for the University, as proven by the fact that the University extended the same accommodation that the plaintiff requested to other of its Caucasian professors.

26. The plaintiff discussed the apparent denial of her request for accommodation with her union grievance chair, Syed Ali, in December 2020, whom she believes conveyed her request for accommodation to the defendant again (including what had happened thus far leading up to November 24, 2020, and the events of that day and thereafter), however the defendant still never informed the plaintiff that she would be accommodated in any manner or otherwise.

27. As a result of the defendant's actions in either or both ignoring or rejecting the plaintiff's request for the accommodation of working remotely, the plaintiff, who was incapacitated from the effects of stroke and her hypertension, had to use all of her sick leave for the Spring Semester.

28. The defendant refused to engage in even the slightest form of an interactive process with the plaintiff, including that it told her that her

serious impairment, which can be life threatening, was not serious enough for an accommodation, and it repeatedly simply ignored the plaintiff after her requests, and refused to communicate with her or her union.

29. Conversely, the defendant treated at least three Caucasian professors entirely differently than it did the plaintiff, entertaining their respective requests to work remotely and by necessary inference, engaging in some form of interactive process with them and cooperating and communicating with them.

30. The plaintiff suffered economic harm by the defendant's conduct, including having to pay travel costs, up until the time she had a stroke; costs which her similarly situated Caucasian peers did not have to spend; Additionally, the plaintiff had to use her earned and valuable sick leave after her stroke until it was exhausted to recover, which her similarly situated Caucasian peers referred to above did not have to do.

31. During the EEOC process, the plaintiff received the defendant's position paper, in which it appears to attempt to justify its refusal to even attempt to reasonably accommodate the plaintiff, by suggesting that it was attempting to balance the effects of COVID against the need for in person

learning (the defendant claims that it needed to provide in person learning unless an overwhelming number of students “chose” to attend classes remotely).

32. In fact, a University study of the students at its Brooklyn campus at the beginning of its 2020 fall semester, showed that a wide majority of the students chose to learn remotely.

33. In the plaintiff’s case, as of November 2020, she was traveling from Plainfield to Brooklyn to teach between 7 to 9 students across three classes; the plaintiff learned that the overwhelming majority of her students wanted to learn remotely, at least in part out of fear of the “virus”; the plaintiff learned that students that were appearing to class in person, generally did not know how to sign up to attend remotely.

34. After the 2020 Thanksgiving break, the defendant made all learning at the Brooklyn campus remote based on COVID; neither the faculty nor the students desired to come to campus due to COVID.

35. If the defendant had engaged in an interactive process with the plaintiff at the beginning of the fall 2020 semester, it would have learned of the dearth

of students in her classes and at the Brooklyn campus, and that any alleged contention it had about student demand to come to class in person was false.

36. As a result of the defendant's actions and intentional actions described above, including refusing the even attempt to reasonably accommodate her, the plaintiff suffered severe emotional distress and severe economic harm; this included excessive stress and worry about catching and dying from COVID from traveling and teaching in person; she also suffered severe emotional distress, realizing that her hypertension was worsening from September 2020 until she had a stroke on November 24, 2020.

37. Thereafter, the plaintiff suffered severe emotional distress from having had a life threatening stroke, for which she has still not fully recovered from, up until the present.

38. The plaintiff suffered severe economic harm from the defendant's discriminatory conduct, by having to expend significant money to travel to campus, and then having to utilize her entire sick leave after her stroke, for the spring 2021 semester, because she was unable to work due to her stroke.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION – DISCRIMINATION BASED ON DISABILITY IN  
VIOLATION OF THE ADA AND ADAA

39. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1-38 above as though fully set forth herein.
40. The plaintiff is and was disabled based on extremely high blood pressure, which substantially affected and affects her ability to regulate the force of the flow of blood in her body against the arteries therein; Hypertension can be life-threatening and result in strokes and heart attacks; the plaintiff suffered a stroke as a result of her hypertension, as described above.
41. Despite her disability, the plaintiff was able to perform the essential functions of her duties for the defendant, with or without accommodation and she was qualified for all of her duties.
42. The plaintiff requested a reasonable accommodation to teach remotely due to her disability, in the context of COVID, for which persons with hypertension, including African Americans of the plaintiff's age were having disproportionately bad outcomes if they contracted the virus in the fall of 2020, including disproportionate death.

43. The defendant intentionally denied the plaintiff a reasonable accommodation, including that if repeatedly refused to even engage in an interactive process with her to determine a reasonable accommodation.

44. Reasonably accommodating the plaintiff would not have caused an undue hardship for the defendant, as evidenced by the fact that it provided the exact accommodation to other of its professors that the plaintiff sought.

45. The plaintiff suffered severe emotional distress and substantial economic harm based on the defendant's conduct – the plaintiff's economic harm also comes from the fact that as a result of effects of her stroke, she has been forced to choose to retire earlier than she would otherwise have chosen to retire, resulting in lost future income.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff requests judgment in her favor against defendant and she requests the following relief:

- a. Front pay;
- b. Compensatory damages;
- c. Punitive damages;
- d. Reasonable attorney's fees and costs;
- e. Any Other Relief the Court Deems Appropriate;

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION – VIOLATION OF TITLE VII –  
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

46. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1-45 above as though fully set forth herein.

47. The defendant intentionally discriminated against the plaintiff based on her race, African American (Black), by treating her differently and worse than her similarly situated Caucasian peers, whom it endeavored to reasonably accommodate by allowing them to reach remotely due to COVID in the fall semester of 2020, while refusing the plaintiff the same.

48. As a result of the defendant's discriminatory conduct, the plaintiff suffered severe emotional distress and substantial economic harm.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff requests judgment in his favor against defendant, and he requests the following relief:

- a. Front pay;
- b. Compensatory damages;
- c. Punitive damages
- d. Any Other Relief the Court Deems Appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Reginald Allen, Esquire